

I also interviewed the man* who shot the last specimens for Perth Museum, 16 or 17 years ago, who told me of the exact patch of scrub where he obtained them, and it seemed that it was one of the very places that I had selected as being likely for *Sphenura* to frequent, and that I had been there several times on my last trip (1922) and also when I was in that locality in 1919. I found this year that a good deal of the above scrub had been recently burnt off there. In 1916 I also revisited the coastal country where Milligan and Conigrave obtained specimens of *Sphenura* and *Psophodes* in 1901, and where I had been in 1902, and seen *Sphenura*, as recorded in "The Emu," Vol. 3, p. 38. But on my visit there in 1916 I found that practically all the coastal scrubs for a distance of some miles, had been completely destroyed by bush fires, and in many places bare sand drift had taken the place of the former dense scrub, and it was difficult to locate the sites of formerly well-known patches of scrub where *Sphenura* and other rare birds had been seen. I do not say that the *Sphenura* is extinct, even in the above localities, but they are certainly much less numerous, and constricted to smaller areas of scrub. The area that has been searched, *systematically*, for this bird is really only small, as it is fifty miles from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin (which has been visited the most), and it is one hundred miles from C. Leeuwin to Nornalup Inlet, of which stretch of coast very little is known, ornithologically.

(Sgd.) TOM CARTER

*This would be F. Lawson Whitlock.

THE IDENTITY OF *NIRMUS BRACTEATUS* NITZSCH (MALLOPHAGA: INSECTA)

By THERESA CLAY, British Museum (Natural History), London.

Nirmus bracteatus Nitzsch, 1866 (Phloptoridae) taken from *Dacelo gigantea* = *D. gigas* was listed under *Nirmus* in Hopkins and Clay, 1952 as its generic identity was unknown. Recently Mr. R. H. Stranger has collected some Mallophaga from two specimens of *Dacelo gigas* at two localities near Perth, W. Australia; these have been compared with the sketches of a male and female *Nirmus bracteatus* in the Nitzsch manuscript and there is little doubt that they are this species. One of the reasons it was difficult to place *bracteatus* in the Check List was the possibility that it might be a straggler from another host, being unlike any species known from the Aleodinidae. However, in addition to the original record and the specimens collected by Mr. Stranger, there are two separate records from the type host amongst the material in the British Museum (N.H.) collections: one female from Queensland and two males and two females from New South Wales collected in 1933 by N.J.B. Plomley. There seems little doubt therefore that *bracteatus* is established on *Dacelo gigas*.

It remains to discuss the affinities of this species and to find a suitable generic position for it. In the following characters it resembles some species of *Brueelia*; in general habitus some of the stouter species; the head carinae are similar, although the ventral carinae at the points of attachment of the pulvini are not typical (Clay, 1951: 188); the thorax and tergal aspects of the abdomen are similar to some of the Corvidae-infesting species; the female genital region is typical of *Brueelia*, having small spiniform setae on the vulva and a group of setae each side arising from a tubercle-like part of the last segment; the male ano-genital opening is dorsal. The male genitalia resemble the most usual type found in the *Degeeriella*-complex, especially in the absence of a head to the paramere articulating with the basal apodeme, a condition also found in *Penenirmus*. However, there is variation in the type of male genitalia found in the *Degeeriella*-complex, some of which have articulating heads to the parameres (see Clay, 1958). This species also resembles members of the *Degeeriella*-complex in having long ocular setae and 2 + 2 long temporal marginal setae, not 1 + 1 as in *Brueelia*.

Tendeiro erected the new genus *Emersoniella* for *halcyonis* parasitic on *Halcyon hombroni* from Masawan, Philippine Islands. *N. bracteatus*



Fig. 1.—*Brueelia bracteata* (Nitzsch), ♂



Fig. 2.—*Brueelia bracteata* (Nitzsch), ♀

—Photographs by J. V. Brown, Photographic Studio, British Museum (N.H.)

resembles this species in the characters of the head and female terminalia and the number and lengths of the ocular and temporal setae; the male genitalia of *E. halcyonis* are of the form characteristic of *Degeeriella* from the Falconiformes. The main difference between the two species is the presence of pleurites with well developed re-entrant heads in *halcyonis*. However, there is little doubt that they are congeneric and that Nitzsch's species can be referred to as *Emersoniella bracteata*.

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